

IN THE CLAIMS:

The text of all pending claims (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims are listed below for the convenience of the Examiner. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

Claims 1-6 (Canceled)

7. (Previously Presented) A communication system utilizing a network, comprising:
a user computer, connected to the network, the user computer including an access unit which determines predetermined quality of service features for interaction with the network;
a service provider computer, connected to the network, to perform one of enabling, disabling, altering and adding quality of service features in said access unit; and
a database, connected to the service provider computer, to determine which of the predetermined quality of service features are currently one of permissible and required for the user computer.

8. (Previously Presented) The communication system according to claim 7, wherein the network is the Internet.

9. (Previously Presented) The communication system as claimed in claim 7, wherein the access unit is an autonomous device.

10. (Previously Presented) The communication system as claimed in claim 7, wherein the access unit is a plug-in device for the user computer.

11. (Previously Presented) The communication system as claimed in claim 7, wherein the access unit is a processor of the user computer programmed to determine predetermined quality of service features for interaction with the network.

12. (Canceled).

13. (Previously Presented) The communication system as claimed in claim 7, wherein said service provider computer is assigned to an Internet service provider.

14. (Previously Presented) The communication system as claimed in claim 7, wherein the quality of service features are called up dynamically in the access unit.

15. (Previously Presented) The communication system as claimed in claim 7, wherein conversion from a first protocol to a second protocol is effected in the access unit.

16. (Previously Presented) A communication system as claimed in claim 7, wherein the access unit is an integral component in the first computer and is incapable of operation without additional components.

17. (Canceled).